



General Assembly

January Session, 2013

Committee Bill No. 654

LCO No. 3201



Referred to Committee on CHILDREN

Introduced by:
(KID)

AN ACT CREATING A MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID PROGRAM FOR PARENTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2013*) (a) There shall be a
2 mental health first aid program. The program shall be under the
3 direction of the Commissioner of Children and Families. The
4 commissioner shall have the responsibility for implementing the
5 program and setting the parameters thereof. The program shall
6 provide (1) core live or online training courses to any parent or
7 guardian of a school-age child on the skills, resources and knowledge
8 to assist individuals in crisis to connect with appropriate local mental
9 health care services; (2) training on mental health resources, including
10 the location of community mental health centers in the state and local
11 community; (3) training on action plans and protocols for referral to
12 such resources; and (4) within available appropriations, continuing
13 education and updated training for such parent or guardian.

14 (b) In each fiscal year for which funds are appropriated for purposes
15 of the mental health first aid program, the Department of Children and
16 Families shall establish a grant program for the purpose of providing

17 funds to entities for the establishment of online or community-based
18 programs for the detection and prevention of emotional and
19 behavioral problems in youths.

20 (c) The commissioner shall solicit grant applications from entities
21 which shall be submitted annually to the commissioner at such time
22 and on such forms as the commissioner prescribes. The commissioner
23 shall issue such grants by September fifteenth of each year. In
24 determining if an entity shall be granted funds pursuant to this section,
25 the commissioner shall consider, but such consideration shall not be
26 limited to, the following factors: (1) Availability in the community of
27 professional, paraprofessional and other program staff with
28 background and experience in mental health first aid training; (2) the
29 entity's ability to accommodate the program; (3) demonstration of
30 strong support by administrative personnel, teaching staff, pupil
31 personnel staff and local community mental health centers; and (4)
32 reasonable evidence of future stability of the program and its
33 personnel.

34 (d) To be eligible for a grant under subsections (b) and (c) of this
35 section, a mental health first aid training program shall be designed to
36 train any parent or guardian of a school-age child to accomplish each
37 of the following objectives: (1) Safe deescalation of crisis situations; (2)
38 recognition of the signs and symptoms of mental illness, including
39 such common psychiatric conditions as schizophrenia, bipolar
40 disorder, major clinical depression and anxiety disorder; and (3) timely
41 referral to mental health services in the early stages of developing
42 mental disorders in order to (A) avoid more costly subsequent
43 behavioral health care, and (B) enhance the effectiveness of mental
44 health services.

45 (e) Any entity receiving a grant under this section shall (1) prepare
46 and submit an evaluation to the commissioner at such time, in such
47 manner and containing such information as the commissioner shall
48 prescribe, including an evaluation of activities carried out with funds

49 received under such grant; and (2) prepare an annual report card
50 employing the results-based accountability format developed by the
51 results-based accountability subcommittee of the joint standing
52 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
53 relating to children and appropriations.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	October 1, 2013	New section
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Statement of Purpose:

To develop a mental health first aid program for parents so that parents will be better equipped to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illness in their children and the community in general.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. WALKER, 93rd Dist.

S.B. 654